

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 5-7 and 9-13 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-17 are pending.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this amendment. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 5-7 and 10-13 have been amended to change the word "capacitance(s)" to --capacitor(s)-- as requested by the examiner.

Claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to properly recite "the second lamp transistor" and "a battery voltage," respectively.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kitamura (US 6,418,041 B1). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action refers to the embodiment shown in Fig. 5 of Kitamura as showing a circuit (50, 51, 52, 53) that supplies intermittent power to a lamp. However, in Fig. 5 a lamp control circuit (18a) is connected in parallel with the generator (19) and always receives power from generator (19). This power is supplied to the lamp (18b) as long as the ambient light is above a prescribed value. In that embodiment it appears that the lamp control works independently of the voltage in the power supply (27).

Fig. 8 does show a circuit where power to the lamp control circuit (18a) is controlled by a third switch (62). When the voltage falls below a desired value, third switch (62) totally cuts off power to shift control circuit (9) and lamp control circuit (18a). Thus, it appears that lamp (18b) does not function at all as long as the voltage is below the desired value. In other words, there is no circuit that intermittently supplies power to the lamp (18b) when the battery voltage is below a selected value as recited in claim 1.

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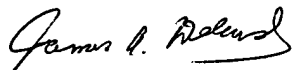
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Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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